

habitual with him. This is the specific offense for which he is to be tried. I trust the War Department will make no needless delay in appointing the court-martial and holding his trial—for the good of our cause and the honor of our army imperative demand a speedy example of just and prompt discipline.

"In this connection I desire to raise a question as to the propriety of burning and demolishing other destruction of property, which is the sanction of our authorities. On the way to Bethel, at the time of the disastrous and discredit- able affair at that place, some time since, Col. Dur- and's house was burned, and the property of the house, was fired upon by one or two shots, believed to have come from the house. An officer and one or two men immediately went in and set the house on fire. It was entirely consumed, together with its contents, and great damage was done to the neighborhood."

Law library, and all its other contents, worth in the aggregate, as the officer himself assured me, not less than \$25,000. I learn that the owner, a lawyer named Witting, and another gentleman who was with him in the house at the time, denied having fired upon the troops. Both were brought into the fortress, and afterwards released by Gen. Butler on the representations of Col. Seger. But I confess I do not see the necessity or propriety of burning the house."

Commenting on this statement, the New York *Journal of Commerce* asks:

"With these facts before us, are we not justified in asking the question, are we a civilized people?"

What worse conduct could characterize the march of a barbarian force through an enemy's country? They are disgraceful to any country, in the present age and with the present standard of civilization, but especially so when the war is between people of the same country, brethren in fact as well as in name, whose associations and former intercourse ought to cause them to love rather than to hate one another. It is this vindictive spirit that makes the war so deplorable. Until men learn that their mission is not to burn and destroy—not to inflict the greatest amount of suffering upon the natives

and unoffending citizens of a country with which we are at war—that legitimate warfare does not degrade intelligent men to the level of barbarians and brutes,—these practices will continue. May we not hope that a speedy reform will take place?

Corruption of the Lincoln Administration.

From the New York Times, July 3.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT—AN INQUIRY WANTED.

It is idle to attempt a suppression of the fact that the public universally regards the administration of the War Department as surrounded with

been made in disregard of all the usual dictates of prudence and economy. Transports have been hired at monthly rates double the entire value of vessels; arms and munitions have been bought at prices which only cease to seem excessive when we learn that one-fourth the cost passed into the pocket of the purchasing agent; the most worthless of trash has been received from favorites and paid for as if fully up to contract requirements; and in every transaction connected with our warlike preparations of the Government there has been the taint of speculation and dishonesty. For these phenomena which the War Department so popularly regarded as responsible, and, at all events, to be hushed, will rest the responsibility of direction, there

Procedents may very easily be found to warrant a certain amount of profligacy in the early efforts at war of a peaceful people. Rapacity takes the hold before patriotism, and is slow to leave it. There are innumerable personal friends of those having wealth to distribute, whose friendship upon political occasions becomes exceedingly, and even criminally, demonstrative, and whose ardor can only be cooled by the burning of the golden keys. Contractors make their way through back doors, and golden keys; political supporters have private claims to be paid for at the public cost; attention has to be given to securing the utmost possible return in personal and political services. Such temptations to forgetfulness of the public good are especially

don resisted, and the opportunity for disposing patronage so vast is employed with an average certainty at the commencement of every contest like the present. It was unfortunate for the Secretary of War that he came to his office with a reputation for being a man of common sense and of a damaging character, though, perhaps, no one would sustain them; he had followed him for years, and it was known beside that his pecuniary interests ran in many directions, and were generally bold and speculative. It required more than ordinary circumspection, therefore, in the administration of his office to escape without suspicion the severe scrutiny such antecedents would provoke; and it must be confessed the Secretary has exhibited far less of

his quantity than was to be expected from a man of this practical shrewdness. A popular impression, extremely unfavorable to the Chief of the Department, had been created by the obvious swiftness and plunging to which we have alluded. If, as we desire to believe, and demand to have proved, true, Mr. Cameron is no party to these shameful transactions, and is unaware of their existence, the Administration is suffering to a degree which may be fatal to its success, from a very unjust but general prejudice.

Congress is about to be asked for indefinite millions to be disbursed mainly through the War Department. Before granting a dollar, Congress must institute such investigations as will leave no doubt

The extraordinary powers confided to the Executive must not be abused. The suspicion that the national enthusiasm is employed by bad and reckless men for self aggrandizement must be removed. Until certainty is attained upon these points, it is safe to say no loan will be received with any sort of favor in the money market; and no reliance can be placed upon a continuance of that great popular impulse, the cessations of which must be the dissolution of the Government. It is due to the people, to the Administration, and especially due to the Secretary at War, that these intimations of corruption be thoroughly examined and cleared up.

of the Provisional Congress, which meets in Richmond on the 20th inst., have already arrived. Of the South Carolina delegation, Col. W. Porcher, Miles is attached to the staff of Gen. Beauregard, and is doing duty at Manassas Junction. Hon. James L. Orr, formerly Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington, is in Richmond, having been appointed in the place of Judge Withers, resigned. Hon. Lawrence M. Keitt has been in our city for several days, and, we understand, proceeds to Fairfax to day, accompanied by Hon. T. L. Clingman, of North Carolina, hoping to be able to do a little fighting "on their own hook" before the assembling of Congress. Mr. Keitt says he is accus-

some game" in the neighborhood of Fairfax.
 Now John Perkins, of Louisiana, is, we believe,
 at Petersburg.
 Col. Francis S. Bartow, of Georgia, is with Gen.
 Johnston's command at or near Martinsburg, at the
 head of his regiment, doing duty however, as Brevet
 Brigadier General. We understand Col. Bartow
 has resigned his seat in Congress, where his
 knowledge of military affairs will be much missed.
 He was chairman of the Military Committee, but
 we have no doubt he will give a still better con-
 sideration of the families who are the art of war, in
 wisdom and manly active field where he is now
 stationed. He is in the vanguard, and we trust his
 example will find many imitations among our lead-

Capture of Prizes.
The following private dispatch to a Savannah merchant is published in the *Morning News* of that city:
CEDAR KEY, July 2.—Four sail vessels appeared off here for several days. To-day the steamer Madison, fully armed, and manned by two companies stationed here, went out to reconnoitre, and up to 7 o'clock P. M., succeeded in capturing two schooners. The schooners are now coming in. The steamer has gone in pursuit of others.

COMMENDABLE.—A clergyman of Augusta county writes to the Richmond *Dispatch* that he has collected among his congregations about three hundred dollars, to aid in defraying the expenses of the war, and that one of the congregations will furnish five tents, with a large quantity of articles for hospital use, to the soldiers in the neighborhood of Manassas station.

ALL SAFE.—It is said the secret of making and using the famous Winan's Steam Gun is in this city, and that the machine can be made and operated at small cost comparatively. Let the experiment be

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.
H^{AVING} this day qualified as the Administrator of Wesley Whelan, deceased, all persons indebted to his estate by note or otherwise, are requested to make immediate payment. Those having claims will present them for payment (properly authenticated) to myself or my father, M^r N. Hobson, who is fully authorized to receipt for any indebtedness and to pay all demands against said estate.
SCHEM A. WHEELER, Administrator of
Wesley Whelan, dec'd.
July 6—1884